

THRENODIA AUGUSTALIS:

A
Funeral-Pindarique
POEM

Sacred to the Happy Memory
OF
King CHARLES II.

By JOHN DRYDEN,

Servant to His late MAJESTY, and to the
Present KING.

*Fortunati Ambo, si quid mea Carmina possunt,
Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet ævo!*

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By JOHN DRYDEN,

Secretary to HER MAJESTY, and to the
LORDS OF THE KING.

CHARLES CLARK,

10-TOTHAM-02.

[11]

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FUNERAL-PINDARIQUE

POEM

Sacred to the Happy Memory

OF

King CHARLES II.

Thus long my Grief has kept me dumb:
Sure there's a Lethargy in mighty Woe,
Tears stand congeal'd, and cannot flow;
And the sad Soul retires into her inmost Room;
Tears, for a Stroke foreseen, afford Relief;
But, unprovided for a sudden Blow,
Like *Niche* we Marble grow;
And Petrified with Grief.

Should

A 2

Our

Our *British* Heav'n was all Serene,
 No threatening Cloud was nigh,
 Not the least wrinkle to deform the Sky;

We liv'd as unconcern'd and happily
 As the first Age in Nature's golden Scene;
 Supine amidst our flowing Store,

We slept securely, and we dream'd of more:
 When suddenly the Thunder-clap was heard,
 It took us unprepar'd, and out of guard,
 Already lost before we fear'd.

Th' amazing News of *Charles* at once were spread,
 At once the general Voice declar'd,
 Our *Gracious Prince* was dead.

No Sickneſs known before, no slow Diſeaſe,
 To ſoften Grief by Juſt Degrees:

But, like an Hurricane on *Indian* Seas,
 The Tempeſt roſe;

An unexpected Buſt of Woes:

With ſcarce a breathing ſpace betwixt,
 This *Now* becalm'd, and perishing the next.

As if great *Atlas* from his Height
 Shou'd ſink beneath his heavenly Weight,

And, with a mighty Flaw, the flaming Wall

(As once it ſhall)

Shou'd

Shou'd gape immense and rushing down, o'erwhelm this
 (neather Ball ;
 So swift and so surprizing was our Fear :
 Our *Atlas* fell indeed ; But *Hercules* was near.

H

His Pious Brother, sure the best
 Who ever bore that Name,
 Was newly risen from his Rest,
 And, with a fervent Flame,
 His usual morning Vows had just address'd
 For his dear Sovereign's Health ;
 And hop'd to have 'em heard,
 In long increase of years,
 In Honour, Fame and Wealth :
 Guileless of Greatness thus he always pray'd,
 Nor knew nor wish'd those Vows he made
 On his own Head shou'd be repay'd.
 Soon as th' ill omen'd Rumour reach'd his Ear,
 (Ill News is wing'd with Fate, and flies apace)
 Who can describe th' Amazement in his Face !
 Horrour in all his Pomp was there,
 Mute and magnificent without a Tear :
 And then the *Hero* first was seen to fear.

Hail marry'd He ran to his Relief,
 So hasty and so artless was his Grief:
 Approaching Greatness met him with her Charms
 Of Power and future State;
 But look'd so ghastly in a Brother's Fate,
 He shook her from his Armes.
 Arriv'd within the mournfull Room, he saw
 A wild Distraction, void of Awe,
 And arbitrary Grief unbounded by a Law.
 God's Image, God's Anointed lay
 Without Motion, Pulse or Breath,
 A senseless Lump of sacred Clay,
 An Image, now, of Death.
 Amidst his sad Attendants Groans and Cryes,
 The Lines of that ador'd, forgiving Face,
 Distorted from their native grace;
 An Iron Scurber fate on his Majestick Eyes.
 The Pious Duke forbear audacious Muse,
 No Terms thy feeble Art can use
 Are able to adorn so vast a Woe:
 The grief of all the rest like subject-grief did show,
 His like a Sovereign did transcend;
 No Wife, no Brother, such a Grief could know,
 Nor any name, but Friend.

Knock'd at the Gates of Heav'n, and knock'd along

The first, well meaning true Penitents.

All for his Life assay'd the Throne

All would live and die for him, and now

O wondrous Changes of a fatal Scene,

Still varying to the last!

Heav'n though its hard Decree was past,

Seem'd pointing to a gracious Turn agen:

And Death's up-lifted Arme arrested in its haft

Heav'n half repented of the doom,

And almost griev'd it had foreseen

What by Foresight it will'd eternally to come

Mercy above did hourly plead

For her Resemblance here below;

And mild Forgiveness intercede

To stop the coming Blow,

All but Eternal Doom

New Miracles approach'd th' Eternal Throne

Such as his wondrous Life had oft and lately known,

And urg'd that still they might be shown

On Earth his Pious Brother pray'd and vow'd

Renouncing Greatness as sold dear a rate

Himself defending what he cou'd,

From all the Glories of his future Fate.

With him th' innumerable Croud,

Of armed Prayers

Knock'd at the Gates of Heav'n, and knock'd aloud;
 The first, well meaning rude Petitioners.
 All for his Life assay'd the Throne,
 All wou'd have brib'd the Skyes by offering up their own.
 So great a Throng not Heav'n it self cou'd bar;
 'Twas almost born by force as in the Giants War.
 The Pray'rs, at least, for his Reprieve were heard;
 His Death, like *Hezekiah's*, was deferr'd:
 Against the Sun the Shadow went;
 Five days, those five Degrees, were lent
 To form our Patience and prepare th' Event.
 The second Causes took the swift Command,
 The med'cinal Head, the ready Hand,
 All eager to perform their Part,
 All but Eternal Doom was conquer'd by their Art:
 Once more the fleeting Soul came back
 To inspire the mortal Frame,
 And in the Body took a doubtfull Stand,
 Doubtfull and hoy'ring like expiring Flame,
 That mounts and falls by turns, and trembles o'er the
 (Brand.
 IV The
 Of armed Prayers

The joyful short-liv'd news soon spread around,
 Took the same Train, the same impetuous bound:
 The drooping Town in smiles again was drest,
 Gladness in every Face exprest,
 Their Eyes before their Tongues confess,
 Men met each other with erected look,
 The steps were higher that they took,
 Each to congratulate his friend made haste;
 And long inveterate Foes saluted as they past.
 Above the rest Heroick James appear'd
 Exalted more, because he more had fear'd:
 His manly heart, whose Noble pride
 Was still above
 Dissembled hate or varnish'd Love,
 Its more then common transport could not hide;
 But like an * *Eagre* rode in triumph o're the tide.
 Thus, in alternate Course,
 The Tyrant passions, hope and fear,
 Did in extremes appear,
 And flash't upon the Soul with equal force.

* An *Eagre* is a Tyde swelling above another Tyde, which I have my self observ'd
 on the River Trent.

Thus, at half Ebb, a rowling Sea
 Returns and wins upon the shoar;
 The watry Herd, affrighted at the roar,
 Rest on their Fins a while, and stay,
 Then backward take their wondring way:
 The Prophet wonders more than they,
 At Prodiges but rarely seen before,
 And cries a *King* must fall; or Kingdoms change
 their sway.
 Such were our counter-tydes at land, and so
 Prefaging of the fatal blow,
 In their prodigious Ebb and flow.
 The Royal Soul, that like the labouring Moon,
 By Charms of Art was hurried down,
 Forc'd with regret to leave her Native Sphear,
 Came but a while on liking here:
 Soon weary of the painful strife,
 And made but faint Essays of Life:
 An Evening light
 Soon shut in Night;
 A strong distemper, and a weak relief,
 Short intervals of joy, and long returns of grief.

The Sons of Art all Medicines try'd
 And every Noble remedy apply'd;
 With emulation each essay'd
 His utmost skill, nay more they pray'd;
 Was never losing game with better conduct plaid
 Death never won a stake with greater toy,
 Nor e're was Fate so near a foil:
 But, like a fortress on a Rock, (mock;
 Th' impregnable Disease their vain attempts did
 They min'd it near, they batter'd from a far
 With all the Cannon of the Medicinal War;
 No gentle means cou'd be essay'd,
 Twas beyond parly when the siege was laid:
 Th' extreamest ways they first ordain,
 Prescribing such intolerable pain,
 As none but *Cesar* cou'd sustain:
 Undaunted *Cesar* underwent
 The malice of their Art, nor bent
 Beneath what e're their pious rigour cou'd invent:
 In five such days he suffer'd more
 Then any suffer'd in his reign before;

More, infinitely more, than he,
 Against the worst of Rebels, cou'd decree,
 A Traytor or twice pardon'd Enemy.
 Now Art was try'd without success,
 No Racks cou'd make the stubborn malady confess.
 The vain *Insurancers* of life,
 And He who most perform'd and promis'd less,
 Even *Shott* himself forsook th' unequal strife.
 Death and despair was in their looks,
 No longer they consult their memories or books;
 Like helpless friends, who view from shore
 The labouring Ship, and hear the tempest roar,
 So stood they with their arms across,
 Not to assist; but to deplore
 Th' inevitable loss.

VI.

Death was denounc'd; that frightful sound
 Which even the best can hardly bear,
 He took the Summons void of fear;
 And, unconcern'dly, cast his eyes around;
 As if to find and dare the grievly Challenger.

What

What death could do he lately try'd,
 When in four days he more then dy'd:
 The same assurance all his words did grace;
 The same Majestick mildness held its place,
 Nor lost the Monarch in his dying face.
 Intrepid, pious, merciful, and brave,
 He lookt as when he conquer'd and forgave.

VII

As if some Angel had been sent
 To lengthen out his Government,
 And to foretel as many years again,
 As he had number'd in his happy reign,
 So chearfully he took the doom
 Of his departing breath;
 Nor shrunk nor stept aside for death:
 But, with unalter'd pace, kept on;
 Providing for events to come,
 When he resign'd the Throne.
 Still he maintain'd his Kingly State;
 And grew familiar with his fate.
 Kind, good and gracious to the last,
 On all he lov'd before, his dying beams he cast:

Oh

Oh truly good, and truly great,
 For glorious as he rose benignly so he set
 All that on earth he held most dear,
 He recommended to his Care,
 To whom both heav'n,
 The right had giv'n
 And his own Love bequeath'd supream command:
 He took and prest that ever loyal hand,
 Which cou'd in Peace secure his Reign,
 Which cou'd in wars his Pow'r maintain, (vain.
 That hand on which no plighted vows were ever
 Well for so great a trust, he chose
 A Prince who never disobey'd:
 Not when the most severe commands were laid;
 Nor want, nor Exile with his duty weigh'd:
 A Prince on whom (if Heav'n its Eyes cou'd close)
 The Welfare of the World it safely might repose.

VIII

That King who liv'd to Gods own heart,
 yet less serenely died than he:
 Charles left behind no harsh decree
 For Schoolmen with laborious art

To

To save from cruelty :
 Those, for whom love could no excuses frame ,
 He graciously forgot to name.
 Thus far my Muse, though rudely, has design'd
 Some faint resemblance of his Godlike mind :
 But neither Pen nor Pencil can express
 The parting Brothers *tenderness* :
 Though that's a term too mean and low ;
 (The blest above a kinder word may know :)
 But what they did, and what they said,
 The Monarch who triumphant went,
 The Militant who staid,
 Like Painters, when their heighning arts are spent,
 I cast into a shade.
 That all forgiving King;
 The type of him above,
 That inexhausted spring
 Of clemency and Love ;
 Himself to his next self accus'd,
 And ask'd that Pardon which he ne're refus'd :
 For faults not his, for guilt and Crimes
 Of Godless men, and of Rebellious times :
 For an hard Exile, kindly meant,
 When his ungrateful Country sent

Their

Their best *Camillus* into banishment : (confest.
 And forc'd their Sov'raigns Act, they could not his
 Oh how much rather had that injur'd Chief
 Repeated all his sufferings past,
 Then hear a pardon beg'd at last,
 Which giv'n could give the dying no relief :
 He bent, he sunk beneath his grief :
 His dauntless heart wou'd fain have held
 From weeping, but his eyes rebell'd.
 Perhaps the Godlike Heroe in his breast
 Disdain'd, or was ashamed to show
 So weak, so womanish a woe, (confest.
 Which yet the Brother and the Friend so plenteously

I X.

Amidst that silent show'r, the Royal mind
 An Easy passage found,
 And left its sacred earth behind :
 Nor murm'ring groan exprest, nor labouring sound,
 Nor any least tumultuous breath ;
 Calm was his life, and quiet was his death.
 Soft as those gentle whispers were,
 In which th' Almighty did appear ;

By

By the still Sound, the Prophet knew him there.
 That Peace which made thy Prosperous Reign to shine,
 That Peace thou leav'st to thy Imperial Line,
 That Peace, oh happy Shade, be ever thine !

X.

For all those Joys thy Restauration brought,
 For all the Miracles it wrought,
 For all the healing Balm thy Mercy pour'd
 Into the Nations bleeding Wound ,
 And Care that after kept it sound,
 For numerous Blessings yearly shour'd,
 And Property with Plenty crown'd ;
 For Freedom, still maintain'd alive,
 Freedom which in no other Land will thrive,
 Freedom an *English* Subject's sole Prerogative,
 Without whose Charms ev'n Peace wou'd be
 But a dull quiet Slavery :
 For these and more, accept our Pious Praise ;
 'Tis all the Subsidy
 The present Age can raise,
 The rest is charg'd on late Posterity.
 Posterity is charg'd the more,
 Because the large abounding-store

C

To

To them and to their Heirs, is still entail'd by thee
 Succession, of a long Descent,
 Which Chastly in the Chanells ran,
 And from our Demi-gods began,
 Equal almost to Time in its extent,
 Through Hazzards numberless and great,
 Thou hast deriv'd this mighty Blessing down,
 And fixt the fairest Gemm that decks th'Imperial Crown:
 Not Faction, when it shook thy Regal Seat,
 Not Senates, insolently loud,
 (Those Ecchoes of a thoughtless Croud,)
 Not Foreign or Domestick Treachery,
 Could warp thy Soul to their Unjust Decree.
 So much thy Foes thy manly Mind mistook,
 Who judg'd it by the Mildness of thy look:
 Like a well-temper'd Sword, it bent at will;
 But kept the Native toughness of the Steel.

XL

Be true, O *Clio*, to thy Hero's Name!
 But draw him strictly so
 That all who view, the Piece may know,
 He needs no Trappings of fictitious Fame:

The

The Load's too weighty : Thou may'st chuse
 Some Parts of Praise, and some refuse: (the Muse.
 Write, that his Annals may be thought more lavish than
 In scanty Truth thou hast confin'd
 The Vertues of a Royal Mind,
 Forgiving, bounteous, humble, just and kind:
 His Conversation, Wit, and Parts,
 His Knowledge in the Noblest, useful Arts,
 Were such, Dead Authors cou'd not give ;
 But habitudes of those who live ;
 Who, lighting him, did greater lights receive :
 He drain'd from all, and all they knew ;
 His Apprehension quick, his Judgment true:
 That the most Learn'd, with shame, confess
 His Knowledge more, his Reading only less.

XII.

Amidst the peaceful Triumphs of his Reign,
 What wonder if the kindly beams he shed
 Reviv'd the drooping Arts again,
 If Science rais'd her Head,
 And soft Humanity that from Rebellion fled ;

Our Isle, indeed, too fruitful was before ;
 But all uncultivated lay
 Out of the *Solar* walk and Heavens high way ;
 With rank *Geneva* Weeds run o're,
 And Cockle, at the best, amidst the Corn it bore :
 The Royal Husbandman appear'd ,
 And Plough'd, and Sow'd, and Till'd,
 The Thorns he rooted out, the Rubbish clear'd,
 And Blest th' obedient Field.
 When, straight, a double Harvest rose ;
 Such as the swarthy Indian mowes ;
 Or happier Climates near the Line,
 Or Paradise manur'd, and drest by hands Divine.

XIII.

As when the New-born Phoenix takes his way,
 His rich Paternal Regions to Survey,
 Of airy Choristers a numerous Train
 Attend his wondrous Progress o're the Plain ;
 So, rising from his Fathers Urn ,
 So Glorious did our *Charles* return ;
 Th' officious Muses came along,
 A gay Harmonious Quire of Angels ever Young: sung)
 (The Muse that mourns him now his happy Triumph
 Even

Even *they* cou'd thrive in his Auspicious reign ;
 And such a plenteous Crop they bore
 Of purest and well winow'd Grain,
 As *Britain* never knew before.
 Tho little was their Hire, and light their Gain,
 Yet somewhat to their share he threw ;
 Fed from his Hand, they sung and flew,
 Like Birds of Paradise, that liv'd on Morning dew.
 Oh never let their Lays his Name forget !
 The Pension of a Prince's Praise is great.
 Live then, thou great Encourager of Arts,
 Live ever in our Thankful Hearts ;
 Live blest Above, almost invok'd Below ;
 Live and receive this Pious Vow,
 Our Patron once, our Guardian Angel now !
 Thou *Fabius* of a sinking State,
 Who didst by wise delays, divert our Fate,
 When Faction like a Tempest rose,
 In Death's most hideous form,
 Then, Art to Rage thou didst oppose,
 To weather out the Storm :
 Not quitting thy Supream command,
 Thou heldst the Rudder with a steady hand,
 Till safely on the Shore the Bark did land :

The

The Bark that all our Blessings brought,
Charg'd with thy Self and *James*, a doubly Royal fraught.

XIV.

Oh frail Estate of Humane things,
And slippery hopes below !
Now to our Cost your Emptiness we know,
(For 'tis a Lesson dearly bought)
Assurance here is never to be sought.
The Best, and best belov'd of Kings,
And best deserving to be so,
When scarce he had escap'd the fatal blow
Of Faction and Conspiracy,
Death did his promis'd hopes destroy :
He toyl'd, He gain'd, but liv'd not to enjoy.
What mists of Providence are these
Through which we cannot see !
So Saints, by supernatural Pow'r set free,
Are left at last in Martyrdom to dye ;
Such is the end of oft repeated Miracles.
Forgive me Heav'n that Impious thought,
'Twas Grief for *Charles*, to Madness wrought,
That Question'd thy Supream Decree !

Thou

Thou didst his gracious Reign prolong,
 Even in thy Saints and Angels wrong,
 His Fellow Citizens of Immortality :
 For Twelve long years of Exile, born,
 Twice Twelve we number'd since his blest Return :
 So strictly wer't thou Just to pay,
 Even to the driblet of a day.
 Yet still we murmur, and Complain,
 The Quails and Manna shou'd no longer rain ;
 Those Miracles 'twas needless to renew ;
 The Chosen Flock has now the Promis'd Land in view.

VX.

A Warlike Prince ascends the Regal State,
 A Prince, long exercis'd by Fate ;
 Long may he keep, tho he obtains it late.
 Heroes, in Heaven's peculiar Mold are cast,
 They and their Poets are not form'd in haste ; (the last
 Man was the first in God's design, and Man was made
 False Heroes made by Flattery so,
 Heav'n can strike out, like Sparkles, at a blow ;
 But e're a Prince is to Perfection brought,
 He costs Omnipotence a second thought.

With

With Toyl and Sweat,
 With hardning Cold, and forming Heat,
 The Cyclops did their strokes repeat,
 Before th' impenetrable Shield was wrought.
 It looks as if the Maker wou'd not own
 The Noble work for his,
 Before 'twas try'd and found a Masterpiece.

XVI.

View then a *Monarch* ripen'd for a Throne.
Alcides thus his race began,
 O're Infancy he swiftly ran;
 The future God, at first was more than Man :
 Dangers and Toils, and *Juno's* Hate
 Even o're his Cradle lay in wait;
 And there he grappled first with Fate :
 In his young Hands the hissing Snakes he prest,
 So early was the Deity confest ;
 Thus, by degrees, he rose to *Jove's* Imperial Seat ;
 Thus difficulties prove a Soul legitimately great.
 Like his, our Hero's Infancy was try'd ;
 Betimes the Furies did their Snakes provide ;
 And, to his Infant Arms oppose

His

His Father's Rebels, and his Brother's Foes;
 The more oppress'd the higher still he rose:
 Those were the Preludes of his Fate,
 That form'd his Manhood, to subdue
 The *Hydra* of the many-headed, hissing Crew.

XVII.

As after *Numa's* peaceful Reign,
 The Martial *Ancus* did the Scepter wield,
 Furbish'd the rusty Sword again,
 Resum'd the long forgotten Shield,
 And led the *Latins* to the dusty Field;
 So *James* the drowsy *Genius* wakes
 Of *Britain* long entranc'd in Charms,
 Restiff and slumbring on its Arms: (shakes.
 'Tis rows'd, & with a new strung Nerve, the Spear already
 No Neighing of the Warriour Steeds,
 No Drum, or louder Trumpet, needs
 To inspire the Coward, warm the Cold,
 His Voice, his sole Appearance makes 'em bold.
Gaul and *Batavia* dread th' impending blow;
 Too well the Vigour of that Arm they know;
 They lick the dust, and Crouch beneath their fatal Foe.

D

Long

Long may they fear this awful Prince,
 And not Provoke his lingering Sword;
 Peace is their only sure Defence,
 There best Security his Word :
 In all the Changes of his doubtful State,
 His Truth, like Heav'n's, was kept inviolate ;
 For him to Promise is to make it Fate.
 His *Valour* can Triumph o're Land and Main ;
 With broken Oaths his Fame he will not stain ;
 With Conquest basely bought, and with Inglorious gain.

XVIII.


For once, O Heav'n, unfold thy Adamantine Book ;
 And let his wondring *Senate* see,
 If not thy firm Immutable Decree ;
 At least the second Page, of great contingency ;
 Such as consists with wills, Originally free :
 Let them, with glad amazement, look
 On what their happiness may be :
 Let them not still be obstinately blind,
 Still to divert the Good thou hast design'd,
 Or with Malignant penury,
 To sterve the Royal Vertues of his Mind.

Faith

Faith is a Christian's, and a Subject's Test,
 Oh give them to believe, and they are surely blest !
 They do ; and, with a distant view, I see
 Th' amended Vows of English Loyalty.
 And all beyond that Object, there appears
 The long Retinue of a Prosperous Reign,
 A Series of Successful years,
 In orderly Array, a Martial, manly Train.
 Behold ev'n to remoter Shores
 A Conquering Navy proudly spread ;
 The British Cannon formidably roars,
 While starting from his Oozy Bed,
 Th' asserted Ocean rears his reverend Head ;
 To View and Recognize his ancient Lord again ::
 And, with a willing hand, restores
 The *Fasces* of the Main.

FINIS.

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